MINUTES OF THE
GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE
Thursday, October 16, 2014 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 210 Senate Building

Members Present:
Sen. Wayne A. Harper, Cochair
Rep. Brad L. Dee, Cochair
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Rep. Douglas V. Sagers
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley
Mr. Tim Doubt on behalf of Chief Chris Burbank
Mr. Warren James on behalf of Chief Michael H. Jensen
Chief Terry Keefe
Chief Mike Mathieu
Mr. Doug Chandler on behalf of Mr.Ken Peterson
Mr. Steven H. Proctor

Ms. Tina Scarlet
Captain Alan Workman
Undersheriff Scott Carver on behalf of Sheriff James Winder

Members Absent:
Sherriff David Edmunds
Chief Mike Navarre
Mr. Jerry Pope

Staff Present:
Mr. Joseph T. Wade, Policy Analyst
Ms. Victoria Ashby, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Tim Barber, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. **Welcome and Task Force Business**

Chair Harper called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

MOTION: Chief Mathieu moved to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2014, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Sagers and Captain Workman were absent for the vote.

2. **Update on Consolidation and Outreach**

Mr. Proctor, Executive Director, Utah Communications Authority (UCA), presented "Consolidation and Outreach" and described to the task force the consolidation activities pertaining to personnel, vehicles, radio systems upgrades, updating infrastructure, new projects, Firstnet, and the activities of the 911 Committee and SIEC Committee.

Rep. Sagers asked Mr. Proctor about capacity when dispatch centers get overloaded and whether redundancy among neighboring PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Point) could help alleviate those situations. Mr. Proctor and Ms. Scarlet clarified that the effort to interconnect PCAP and their computer assisted dispatch systems is ongoing.

Mr.Proctor commented that there are persistent rumors of consolidation throughout rural dispatch centers in the state and that they are inaccurate and no mandate requiring consolidations is forthcoming.

3. **Needs of Statewide Public Safety Radio System**

Mr. Proctor presented "Recommendations to the Task Force from The UCA" and distributed "UCA Needs Recommendations." Mr. Proctor explained in detail the recommendations from the UCA regarding funding needs for a statewide VHF system and radio dispatch consoles. Mr. Proctor explained that ongoing priorities for UCA includes developing coverage maps, supporting existing infrastructure, upgrading to an 800 MHz radio system where economically feasible, and improving interoperability.

Mr. Proctor stated his view that the most important duty of the task force is finding a sustainable funding source that is adequate for emergency communications and to support first responders.

4. Task Force Discussion

The task force discussed a number of funding options for the needs outlined by UCA, including increasing 911 fees across the board as well as adjusting the transient room tax, restaurant tax, and rental car tax in order to generate funds from tourists who might use emergency communications services.

Rep. Dee suggested the task force consider recommending an infusion of approximately $10 million in one-time funds along with some ongoing funds to pay for bonds.

Mr. Chandler suggested shifting 911 fees to an emergency communications fee where rates would rise and fall depending on needs.

Chief Mathieu suggested seeking a stable funding source with as little overhead as possible.

Captain Workman expressed that even with a 911 fee increase, Utah's fees would still be far below the national average of the size of similar fees in other states.

Mr. Proctor informed the task force that a consultant report will be available at the next meeting with the estimated costs.

6. Other items/adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Dee moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Chief Keefe absent for the vote.

Chair Harper adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.